(b) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in its meeting held on 02.11.2006 has approved the implementation of Central Sector Reform-Linked Scheme for setting up of modern Terminal Markets Projects under National Horticulture Mission. The Operational Guidelines of the Scheme have been circulated to those States, which have amended their laws dealing with agricultural marketing to allow setting up of markets in private and cooperative sector and direct marketing. Under this scheme, the setting up of Terminal Markets is not location specific and can be set up by the State Government, or, if preferred by the State Government, then by the selected Enterprise, at any suitable location on the basis of specificities of that area and the economic viability of the project. Accordingly, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Chandigarh have initiated action for setting up of terminal markets.

(c) and (d) These Terminal Markets would provide state of the art infrastructure facilities for electronic auction, cold chain and logistics and operate through primary collection centres conveniently located in producing areas to allow easy access to farmers. The terminal markets are envisaged to operate on a "hub-and-spoke" format wherein the terminal market (the hub) would be linked to a number of collection centres (the spokes), conveniently located in key production centres to allow easy access to farmers for the marketing of their produce. The Terminal Market would be built, owned and operated by a Corporate/Private/Co-operative entity either by itself or through adoption of an outsourcing model. The enterprise could be a consortium of entrepreneurs from agri-business, cold chain, logistics, warehousing, agri-infrastructure and related background. The enterprise would charge user charge for the services provided.

Implementation and successful operation of this path-breaking initative would necessitate State Government support. The Central/State Government will lend its support to the initiative by providing financial support to the project by way of equity participation upto maximum 49%, which would be determined through a competitive bidding process. The disinvestments of Government equity shall be done at an appropriate time at market/fair value and not at face value. So far, no financial assistance has been released under the scheme as the projects are only at the initial stages.

Foodgrains production in Bihar

†609. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present position regarding foodgrains production in Bihar; and

(b) the total quantum of foodgrains required by Bihar at present and the total requirement of foodgrains by the year 2020 keeping in view the increasing population as a major factor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) As per the latest 4th advance estimates, foodgrains production in Bihar stands at 10.50 million tonnes during 2006-07.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) On the basis of the monthly per capita quantities of consumption reported in the National Sample Survey 61st Round Report on "Household Consumption of Various Goods and Services in India, 2004-05" and the population projections given by the office of the Registrar General of India, the total quantum of foodgrains required by Bihar during 2006-07 is estimated at 17.33 million tonnes which includes seed, feed and wastage. Bihar's requirement of foodgrains in 2020-21 is estimated at 20.62 million tonnes.

Dairy development

†610. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is immense potential in dairy development in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is immense potential in dairy development in the country. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries implemented the following four dairy development schemes during the Tenth Five Year Plan:-

1. Intensive Dairy Development Programme.
2. Assistance to Cooperatives.
3. Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production.
4. Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund.

All the above dairy development schemes are being continued during 2007-08 and also proposed to be continued during rest of the Eleventh Plan period.

Purchase of wheat by FCI

†611. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of wheat is over 74 crore tonnes this year;

(b) what was the target fixed for wheat purchase by the Food Corporation of India this year;

(c) whether that target has been achieved;

(d) if so, the total quantity of wheat purchased by the Food Corporation of India; and

(e) if not, the reasons for less purchase of wheat?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.